

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

JACK. J. NELSON,) Case No. 8:14CV369
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
ROBERT A. McDONALD, SECRETARY,) FIFTH AMENDED ORDER SETTING
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,) FINAL PROGRESSION OF CASE
Defendant.)

Pursuant to the parties' Fourth Joint Motion for Extension of Final Progression Order filed on May 12, 2016 (Filing 39), seeking to extend certain deadlines in the Order Amending Final Progression Deadlines (Filing 36):

IT IS ORDERED that the provisions of the court's earlier, initial progression order remain in effect, and in addition to those provisions, the following amended deadlines shall apply:

1. **Motions for Summary Judgment.** Motions for summary judgment shall be filed not later than **August 19, 2016**. See NECivR 56.1 and 7.0.1.

2. **Discovery Deadlines:**

a. **Deposition Deadline.** All depositions, whether or not they are intended to be used at trial, shall be completed by **June 30, 2016**.

3. **Pretrial Disclosures.** Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3), each party shall serve opposing counsel and file a redacted version as applicable with the following information regarding the evidence it may present at trial other than solely for impeachment purposes as soon as practicable but not later than the date specified:

a. **Nonexpert Witnesses - On or before October 6, 2016:** The name, address and telephone number¹ of each witness, separately identifying those whom the party expects to present and those whom the party may call if the need arises.

¹In accordance with the E-Government Act, counsel shall, on witness lists, exhibits, and other disclosures and/or **documents filed with the court**, redact Social Security numbers, home addresses, telephone numbers, and other personally identifying information of witnesses, but shall serve an unredacted version on opposing parties. See NECivR 5.0.3.

b. **Trial Exhibits - On or before October 6, 2016:** A list of all exhibits it expects to offer by providing a numbered listing and permitting examination of such exhibits, designating on the list those exhibits it may offer only if the need arises.

4. **Motions in Limine.** Motions in limine, other than motions in limine challenging the admissibility of expert testimony at trial under Fed. R. Evid. 702, shall be filed on or before **October 21, 2016.**

5. The **Final Pretrial Conference** with the undersigned magistrate judge is set for **November 14, 2016, at 10:00 A.M.**, in chambers, 111 South 18th Plaza, Suite 2210, Roman L. Hruska United States Courthouse, Omaha, Nebraska. The final pretrial conference shall be attended by lead counsel for represented parties. Counsel shall complete prior to the pretrial conference, all items as directed in NECivR 16.2.² By the time of the pretrial conference, full preparation for trial shall have been made so that trial may begin immediately thereafter. The pretrial conference will include a discussion of settlement, and counsel shall be prepared through investigation, discovery and communication with clients and insurers, if any, to discuss fully the subject of settlement, including realistic expectations about liability, obstacles to agreement, offers made, and offers which can be made at the conference. Counsel shall be prepared to make additional offers or proposals for settlement in behalf of their clients at the pretrial conference, and counsel shall be prepared to make or opine on recommendations for further negotiations and conferences.

6. **Mediation and Settlement:**

a. If the parties intend to mediate their dispute, **notice of the mediation** shall be given to the staff of the magistrate judge's office. The filing of a mediation reference order will terminate pending motions, without prejudice to refiling. If the mediation is not successful, the moving party may reinstate such a motion by filing a written notice to that effect, and the other parties may respond in accordance with the local rules, regarding the date of the notice as reinstating the response/reply time that remained as of the date the mediation reference order was filed.

b. Not later than **two weeks prior to trial**, plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel shall serve on defendant or defendant's counsel a written, updated settlement proposal. Defendant or

²All personal information should be redacted from the public version of the order and/or attachments filed with the Clerk. See NECivR 5.0.3.

defendant's counsel shall respond in writing to such proposal not later than one week before trial.

c. **Notice of settlement** shall be given to the trial judge's office as soon as practicable but in any event in time to avoid summoning a jury. If a case settles and notice of settlement is not given in sufficient time to avoid summoning a jury, assessment of jury costs may – and normally will – be made against a party and/or counsel for one or more of the parties. For purposes of this paragraph, a jury is considered summoned for a trial at noon the business day prior to the designated date of trial.

7. **A jury trial** is set to commence on **December 13, 2016, at 9:00 A.M.**, in Omaha, Nebraska, before the **Honorable F.A. Gossett, III**, United States Magistrate Judge. Unless otherwise ordered, jury selection shall be at the commencement of trial.

8. **Motions to Alter Dates.** All requests for changes of deadlines or settings established herein shall be directed to the magistrate judge by appropriate motion, including all requests for changes of trial dates. Such motions shall not be considered in the absence of a showing by counsel of due diligence in the timely development of this case for trial and the recent development of circumstances, unanticipated prior to the filing of the motion, which require that additional time be allowed.

9. The remaining provisions and deadlines contained in the Order Setting Final Schedule for Progression of Case (Filing 23) are not amended by this Order.

DATED: May 12, 2016.

BY THE COURT:

**s/ F.A. Gossett, III
United States Magistrate Judge**